

In the Office Action mailed June 25, 1998, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 10-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Venzi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,348,801)(hereinafter "Venzi"). The Examiner also rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venzi. During the interview the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed proposed amendments to the claims that would further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.

In particular, the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed a proposed amendment to independent method claim 13 to distinguish from the cited art by calling for the step of applying a tack coat to a pipe surface and then applying a composite reinforcement layer impregnated with a resin to the tack coat. The Examiner indicated that such claim may be allowable pending further search and consideration. In accordance with the discussion during the Examiner interview, claim 13 has been amended to recite the proposed language. Support for this amendment is found on page 5 of Applicants' specification.

In addition, the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed adding an additional independent method claim to distinguish from the cited art by reciting that a composite reinforcement layer impregnated with a resin is applied to a surface of the pipe wall in an uncured state and then partially cures once applied to the surface. The Examiner indicated that such claim may be allowable pending further search and consideration. In accordance with the discussion during the Examiner interview, new independent claim 22 recites the proposed language. Support for this new claim is found on page 6 of Applicants' specification.

Furthermore, the Examiner proposed that apparatus claims 1-12 be cancelled. In accordance with the Examiner's proposal, Applicants' have cancelled apparatus claims 1-12.

Applicants have also added new dependent claims 21 and 23-30 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. In particular, new claim 21 depends from independent

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claim 13 and calls for resin to be applied to the internal or the external surface of the pipe wall prior to applying the tack coat to fill irregularities in the internal or the external surface of the pipe wall. New claim 29, dependent from independent claim 22, recites analogous subject matter. New claim 30 depends from claim 22 and calls for a tack coat to be applied to the pipe wall prior to the application of the composite layer. Support for these new claims is found on page 5 of Applicants' specification.

Newly added claim 23 depends from independent claim 22 and requires that the reinforcement layer is held in clamped engagement with the surface of the pipe wall to enable the resin to at least partially cure in place on the surface of the pipe wall. Support for this new claim is found on page 6 of Applicants' specification. New dependent claims 24-28 include subject matter analogous to original dependent claims 14 and 16-19, respectively.


Claim 17 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 16-19 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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